IN THE CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently amended) A method in a data processing system for presenting status information associated with a hierarchical operation, the method comprising the steps of:

determining a total number of tasks to be performed for a particular hierarchical operation;

determining a number of sub-groups contained in the particular hierarchical operation;

displaying a plurality of status indicators in a view, wherein each status indicator of the plurality of status indicators indicating indicates a progress of the particular hierarchical operation being performed status of a particular hierarchical operation, wherein the [[said]] particular hierarchical operation is being performed for a corresponding one of the [[said]] each status indicator, wherein the particular hierarchical operation comprises an operation performed on a hierarchical structure and having a plurality of nested operations; and

arranging the [[said]] plurality of the [[said]] status indicators in a Z-order layering in the [[said]] view, wherein the view is one of a dialog box and a window, wherein the Z-order layering displays simultaneously on one screen the status of the plurality of nested operations of the particular hierarchical operation being performed on elements of the hierarchical structure, wherein the arranging step further comprises arranging the each status indicator of the plurality of status indicators in a circular pattern; wherein the each status indicator of the plurality of status indicators is defined in the view by an inner diameter, an outer diameter, and a length; wherein the length is associated with the status of the particular hierarchical operation, wherein the inner diameter and the outer diameter define a width for the each status indicator, and wherein the width is adjustable for at least one of the each status indicator so as to maintain a substantially constant diameter for the circular pattern.

2.-13. (Canceled)

14.   (Currently amended) A data processing system for presenting status information associated with a hierarchical operation, the data processing system comprising:

a processor;

a memory connected to the [[said]] processor; and

a set of instructions included in the [[said]] memory, the [[said]] processor configured to execute the [[said]] set of instructions to ~~perform the following steps~~:

determine a total number of tasks to be performed for a particular hierarchical operation;

determine a number of sub-groups contained in the particular hierarchical operation;

display a plurality of status indicators in a view, wherein each status indicator of the plurality of status indicators ~~indicating~~ indicates a progress of the particular hierarchical operation being performed ~~status of a particular hierarchical operation~~;

perform the [[said]] particular hierarchical operation for a corresponding one of the [[said]] each status indicator, wherein the particular hierarchical operation comprises an operation performed on a hierarchical structure and having a plurality of nested operations; and

arrange the [[said]] plurality of the [[said]] status indicators in a Z-order layering in the [[said]] view, wherein the view is one of a dialog box and a window, wherein the Z-order layering displays simultaneously on one screen the status of the plurality of nested operations of the particular hierarchical operation being performed on elements of the hierarchical structure, wherein the arranging step comprises further instructions to arrange the each status indicator of the plurality of status indicators in a circular pattern, wherein the each status indicator of the plurality of status indicators is defined in the view by an inner diameter, an outer diameter, and a length; wherein the length is associated with the status of the particular hierarchical operation, wherein the inner diameter and the outer diameter define a width for the each status indicator, and wherein the width is adjustable for at least one of the each status indicator so as to maintain a substantially constant diameter for the circular pattern.

15.-26. (Canceled)

27.   (Currently amended) A computer program product on a computer readable medium, the [[said]] computer program product comprising:

instructions for determining a total number of tasks to be performed for a particular hierarchical operation;

instructions for determining a number of sub-groups contained in the particular hierarchical operation;

[[first]] instructions for displaying a plurality of status indicators in a view, <u>wherein</u> each status indicator of the plurality of status indicators ~~indicating~~ indicates a <u>progress of the particular hierarchical operation being performed</u> ~~status of a particular hierarchical operation~~, <u>wherein the</u> [[said]] particular hierarchical operation <u>is</u> [[being]] performed for a corresponding one of <u>the</u> [[said]] each status indicator<u>, wherein the particular hierarchical operation comprises an operation performed on a hierarchical structure and having a plurality of nested operations</u>; and

~~second~~ instructions for arranging <u>the</u> [[said]] plurality of <u>the</u> [[said]] status indicators in a Z-order layering in <u>the</u> [[said]] view<u>, wherein the view is one of a dialog box and a window; wherein the Z-order layering displays simultaneously on one screen the status of the plurality of nested operations of the particular hierarchical operation being performed on elements of the hierarchical structure; wherein the arranging step further comprises instructions for arranging the each status indicator of the plurality of status indicators in a circular pattern; wherein the each status indicator of the plurality of status indicators is defined in the view by an inner diameter, an outer diameter, and a length; wherein the length is associated with the status of the particular hierarchical operation, wherein the inner diameter and the outer diameter define a width for the each status indicator, and wherein the width is adjustable for at least one of the each status indicator so as to maintain a substantially constant diameter for the circular pattern.</u>

28.-30. (Canceled)